

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 197990
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY UNA:JFTEFFT

APPROVED BY UNA:AFHOLLOWAY

S/S:PTARNOFF

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 197990

NODIS

FOR AMB YOUNG

FOL RPT PRETORIA 4228 ACTION SECSTATE 19 AUG 77 QUOTE

S E C R E T PRETORIA 4228

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 2, 3

TAGS: PARM, SF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM

REF: STATE 197389, PRETORIA 4222, PRETORIA 4211,

1. I DELIVERED THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO PIK BOTHA TO BRAND FOURIE AT 1400. AFTER READING IT HE SAID HE THOUGHT THE LOCATION DESCRIBED COINCIDED WITH THE TESTING SITE HE HAD MENTIONED YESTERDAY. TO MAKE SURE, HE PLACED A PHONE CALL. FORTY MINUTES LATER THE PERSON CONTACTED CALLED TO CONFIRM THAT THIS WAS A "MILITARY TESTING FACILITY." I ASKED FOURIE IF HE COULD BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT THE NATURE

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OF THE TESTING GOING ON AT THE FACILITY. HE THOUGHT THAT MISSILE TESTING WAS INVOLVED BUT PREFERRED TO CONSULT WITH MILITARY AUTHORITIES CONCERNED BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO CHARACTERIZE THE SITE.

2. NOTING THE URGENCY ATTACHED TO THE SENDING OF A SMALL US TECHNICAL TEAM, I ASKED WHETHER I COULD EXPECT A RESPONSE

WITHIN THE NEXT TWENTY-FOUR HOURS. FOURIE REPLIED THAT WITH THE PM OUT OF TOWN AND GIVEN THE NEED TO CONSULT MILITARY AUTHORITIES BECAUSE A MILITARY INSTALLATION IS INVOLVED, HE DOUBTED WHETHER A RESPONSE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING UNTIL EARLY NEXT WEEK. I POINTED OUT THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS THAT THE VISIT TAKE PLACE NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 21. HE NODDED BUT MADE NO FURTHER COMMENT.

3. ATMOSPHERE TODAY WAS CORDIAL AND RELAXED. I ASKED FOURIE WHETHER BOTHA HAD CALLED OWEN ON THE RHODESIAN QUESTION AND HE SAID HE HAD.

4. DEPARTMENT PASS LONDON AND PARIS AS APPROPRIATE.
BOWDLER

UNQUOTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, CAT-C, CHEROKEE 08/19/77, ALLEGATIONS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, NUCLEAR TESTS, NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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